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RECLAMATION PROJECTS TO INCREASE FARM LAND

SWAMP DRAINAGE TO BEGIN IN THE BARANJA -- Politika, No 13265, 16 Jun 49

The draining of the Biljski Rit, which extends from the Danube to the Drava along the triangle forming the Baranja, will begin about 1 July. This is one of the major projects of the Five-Year Plan. This vast disease-ridden area near Osijek will be transformed into farm land, with 9,560 hectares suitable for cultivation.

A levee 28 kilometers long will be built along the right bank of the Danube and the left bank of the Drava, and a net of new canals 73 kilometers long will be cut. Electrically operated pumping stations with a total capacity of 14,000 liters of water per second will be installed at two strategic points. They will be capable of irrigating 7,000 hectares of land if necessary. The network of canals will control the flow of water into the Danube and the Drava from their tributaries.

At first, hemp will probably be the only crop that can be planted in the reclaimed area. If potatoes, for example, can be grown later on the entire 9,560 hectares, the resulting crop of 965,000 metric centners per year will be worth over 197,800,000 dinars annually.

MACEDONIAN PROJECT PROGRESSING -- Borba, No 138, 12 Jun 49

The Pelagonia reclamation project in Macedonia was started in 1947. A vast area of land now under water will be transformed into fertile farm land, the future granary of Macedonia, by 1951.

The cutting of a new bed 60 kilometers long for the Crna River will drain 50,000 hectares, while the building of irrigation canals will render another 50,000 hectares cultivable. So far seven streams have been dredged and over 400,000 cubic meters of earth excavated. The Five-Year Plan

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provides for a total excavation of about 9 million cubic meters of earth and a total expenditure of 700 million dinars.

This year the bed of the Crna River is to be completed from Skocivir to the mouth of the Jelaska River. This will involve excavation of about 2 million cubic meters of earth and reclamation of 25,000 hectares of land for planting next year.

CANAL TO AID RECLAMATION IN SLAVONIA -- Politika, No 13265, 16 Jun 49

Sailors from the Yugoslav Navy are building a canal from Zapolje to Orljava, one of the most important reclamation projects in the Slavonian polje. Irrigation and drainage of swamps will make 28,000 hectares of land along the Sava available for cultivation. The canal will also be used for flooding a rice field near Orljava.

The canal will be 3 - 6 meters deep, enough for shipping asphalt to the Brotherhood and Unity Highway which parallels it.

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